

**MINUTES OF THE
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 3:30 p.m.
Bi-State Regional Commission
Third Floor Conference Room
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

MEMBERS PRESENT: McDaniel– Vice-Chair, Austin, Bohnsack, Earnhardt, Gluba, Gordon, Heninger, Henry, Kelly, Liddell, Meeker, Minard, O’Boyle, Pauley, Rockwell, Sherwin, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Tank, Thodos, Volz, Washburn, Watkins, Wells, Welvaert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Fox, Freemire, Goodwin, Lawrence, O’Brien, Rangel, Schloemer, Tossell

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of Quad City Interfaith

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, Hunt, Lentsch, McCullough, Melton, Moritz

Vice-Chair McDaniel called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

28. Approval of the August 24, 2011 Minutes. Mr. Bohnsack moved to approve the minutes of August 24, 2011 as presented. Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

29. Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Earnhardt presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending August 31, 2011, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$633,832.09. Ms. Earnhardt moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Wells seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

30. Finance and Personnel Committee.

a. Bills. Ms. Bulat presented the bills totaling \$173,221.32, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated September 28, 2011:

Bills List

Bosso Electric Ltd., installation of electrical circuits	\$ 2,975.00
City of East Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds (\$7,162.85);Community Development Assistance Program (\$1,089.57)	8,252.42*
Hurt, Norton & Associates, August legislative technical services (cost reimbursed by participating local governments)	7,750.00
Illinois Association of Regional Councils, Human Services Transportation Plan administrative assistance	831.25
Village of Milan, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant	53,246.25*
City of Moline, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	3,076.26

Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, renewal of membership dues (paid for by Workforce Development Board)	1,500.00
City of Rock Island, Municipal Code Enforcement System proceeds	78,471.16*
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C. Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	2,170.00
Tallgrass Business Resources, paper shredder	759.00*

Addendum

APA Iowa, nine staff attending the 2011 APA Upper Midwest Regional Conference	910.00
Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to one staff attending the National Rural Transportation Conference; one staff attending the Illinois Public Transportation Association Fall Conference; Iowa Association of Regional Councils meeting; Illinois Association of Regional Councils annual meeting; International City Managers Association Conference; Chicago to Kansas City Expressway meeting; office supplies	3,341.69
Louisa Ewert, Treasurer	5,554.64
10/2011 Rent	\$4,618.38
10/2011 Internet Access	88.00
08/2011 Postage	711.08
08 & 09/2011 Cell Phone	137.18
Iowa Association of Regional Councils, IARC Staff Retreat and 2012 dues	3,090.00
RK Dixon, maintenance service on network and monthly copier charges	646.10

*Corrections –

City of East Moline, (previously listed as \$8,252.42), additional invoice for cost of finance luncheon (\$13.25)	8,265.67
Village of Milan (previously listed as \$53,246.25), additional invoice for proceeds of the Municipal Code Enforcement System (\$450.60)	53,696.85
City of Rock Island (previously listed as \$78,471.16), additional invoice for fuel charges (\$156.45)	78,627.61
Tallgrass Business Resources (previously listed as \$759.00), additional invoice for office supplies (\$27.25)	786.25

Mr. Bohnsack moved approval of the bills totaling \$173,221.32 as presented above.
 Mr. Tank seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission's FY 2011 Program Budget as of August 31, 2011.

Ms. Bulat explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet.
 The Commission is 16.7% through the fiscal year with 13.5% expended and within budget.

31. Economic Development Activity. Mr. Hunt presented information regarding economic development projects worked on by Bi-State staff during the first quarter of FY 2012. He divided his report into three sections:

Planning. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Bi-State Region is the main economic development plan produced by Bi-State staff. The 2011 CEDS was completed in June and submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CEDS must be fully updated every five years, with minor updates during the interim years. Mr. Hunt explained that producing the CEDS is a key requirement for the region to receive EDA grant funding.

Technical Assistance. Over the past quarter Bi-State staff has worked on a number of technical assistance projects. Staff continued to provide assistance to the Henry County Economic Development Partnership (HCEDP) and Mercer Growth Organization (MERGO). The Village of Port Byron contracted with Bi-State to produce a community profile, which will help market the village to businesses looking for development opportunities. Bi-State staff is nearing completion of phase two of the website, www.GreaterQCRegion.org, a “one stop” site for economic and demographic data about the Bi-State Region. The site will have improved mapping and reporting capabilities as well as updated data from the 2010 Census.

Grant Applications. Staff facilitated the completion of EDA applications for East Moline, Rock Island, and Bettendorf as well as an EDA planning partnership grant for the Commission. While the EDA declined to fund the East Moline application, Rock Island’s request for infrastructure assistance at Ridgewood Sustainable Business Park was approved. Bettendorf’s application for sewer improvements and the Iowa Gateway Center remains under review. Bi-state’s planning partnership grant was renewed for three years. Bi-State staff is currently seeking funding on a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to study intermodal freight movement in the region.

Mr. Hunt closed by noting a few upcoming economic development projects including a possible reapplication for East Moline, and the 4th annual HCEDP Springfield Legislative Visit.

32. CAEI Weatherization Program and Illinois Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Ms. Lentsch briefly reviewed two energy efficiency programs that Bi-State Regional Commission is currently administering. The first is the Weatherization Assistance Program. The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program reduces energy costs for low-income families by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes. The program began in 1976, and over 6.3 million households nationwide have received weatherization services. In September 2009, Community Action of Eastern Iowa (CAEI) subcontracted with Bi-State to oversee Davis-Bacon Act regulations, which includes payrolls and interviewing contractors to ensure compliance. Since receiving ARRA funds in 2009, CAEI has weatherized over 500 households in Cedar, Clinton, Muscatine, and Scott Counties. The most common types of home improvements include insulation and water heater and furnace upgrades.

The second program is the Illinois Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). This grant is also funded through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The State of Illinois received just over \$13 million, with the Bi-State Region (Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island counties) receiving \$427,228. Bi-State requested a call for projects, and 16 projects were

funded with 12 different jurisdictions receiving funds. Project awards range from \$5,000-\$105,000. As of today, 10 of the projects have been completed, with all projects needing to be completed no later than March 31, 2012.

33. Presentation by Quad City Interfaith. Members of Quad City Interfaith presented a Quad City Rail Community Benefits Agreement, proposing negotiation points in regard to transportation projects in the Quad Cities Area. Following discussion, Mayor Welvaert, Transportation Policy Committee Chair, read the resolution that is included in all Transportation Improvement Programs submitted to the state Departments of Transportation stating that Bi-State Regional Commission will abide by all of the requirements of 23 CFR 450.218 of the Federal Register. He moved to reaffirm the resolution. Ms. Sherwin seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
34. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
35. Other Business. Ms. Bulat introduced to the Commission Bi-State's newest staff member, Brandon Melton. He is working with transportation and air quality-related issues.
36. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Pauley
Secretary